

2011 Suertes del Marques La Solana

The 2011 La Solana is a single east-facing vineyard planted with the local red grape, 95% Listan Negro with the balance being a mix of different grapes, the norm in these 120-year-old vineyards. Listan Negro is supposedly a neutral grape, but not here, where the wine is very aromatic, perfumed, different and ever-changing. It really makes you smell it twice. The palate is fruity and feminine, it showing very fine minerality (all the Canary Islands are volcanic) with a medium-bodied, great length and some very fine and silky tannins. Drink it now-2016.

The wines from Suertes del Marques prompted me to write this article about wines from the Canary Islands, as I was excited with their marked personality. The winery was created in 2006 by Francisco Garcia and his sons Francisco and Jonatan, a family from Orotava in Tenerife. Their nine hectares of vineyards, planted between 300 and 700 meters above sea level are in the northern part of Tenerife, in the Orotava valley, very close to the tourist area of Puerto de la Cruz, in a subtropical climate area highly influenced by the northern Alisio winds that bring about a very fresh climate. The north of Tenerife is very green, while the south is dry and arid. Local Roberto Santana, wh...

- Luis Gutierrez (October, 2013)

2011 Suertes del Marques Los Pasitos

The 2011 Los Pasitos is produced from Baboso Negro grapes, which is nothing other than the local name used to call the Alfrocheiro Preto from Portugal, a short-cycle grape, which is ideal for the area. This is a very young vineyard, planted in 2008 and all the grapes come from a single plot. It's very different from the rest of their wines, more concentrated and powerful but still very aromatic, showing blueberries, exotic spices and dried flowers. The palate is quite full-bodied, powerful, and spicy: this is a wine with strong personality. Only 600 bottles were produced. Drink it now-2017.

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2011 Suertes del Marques Vidonia

The white 2011 Vidonia is produced from a blend of 90% Listan Blanco and the rest a blend of local grapes all from a vineyard that is 120 years old. Listan Blanco is a name used for the Palomino Fino grape used mostly for Sherry. Golden-colored, 2011 is the first vintage, and they fermented the wine in 500-liter oak barrels, which were quite new. The nose shows mainly aromas from the oak, smoky, toasty notes and some roasted nuts. The palate is medium-bodied, quite round and even shows some tannin in the end. Give it a couple of years to absorb the oak. They are decreasing the oak in the wine, and from 2013 this wine will ferment in cement. 1,200 bottles were produced, but they have potential to grow in quantity, as there are similar vineyards that will contribute to this wine. Drink it from 2015-2018.

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2011 Suertes del Marques El Ciruelo

The 2011 El Ciruelo is named for the vineyards used to produce the wine. A ciruelo is a plum tree, and as you can guess, a plum tree is planted right in the middle of the vineyard. The north-facing vineyard located at 430-520 meters altitude is one hectare planted with Listan Negro, a local red grape from the Canary Islands. The soil is very volcanic and minerally, as it's higher up the slopes. The nose offers subtle volcanic notes (think wet pumice stone), super-spicy black pepper, (ras el hanout spice mix), red fruits, vanilla and dried flowers. A wine of strong personality, the palate is superb, with very fine tannins, supple and tasty with a salty edge, in need of some time to show its inherent elegance. 1,800 bottles produced. Drink it from 2014-2020.

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2011 Suertes del Marques 7 Fuentes

The 2011 7 Fuentes is produced from different plots planted with 90% Listan Negro and 10% Tintilla (Trousseau) some averaging 100 years of age. It's a blend of over 20 different wines, all fermented in cement, where only 40% of the wine is aged in used 500-liter oak barrels. They talk about this as their village wine. The wine has a very flowery nose, showing violets and rose petals, a touch of spices (white pepper), and red fruits: raspberries, strawberries and sour cherries. The palate shows great fruit and a tasty, almost salty, finish. This wine for thirst is a superb value and a perfect introduction to what the new wines from the Canary Islands could potentially be. 18,000 bottles produced. Drink it now-2016.

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